第95話

The Two Bosses

バタン…

ブロロ…

…

ドルルル…

THERE WAS 30 BILLION, RIGHT HERE ...

JUST A MOMENT AGO

30 BILLION ...

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT

SOME-HOW

HAH ...

HUH?

HEY, POPS ...

LET'S GO...

A LIFE WHERE YOU CAN DO ANY-THING YOU WANT...

AND YOU'D STILL NEVER RUN OUT.

HEA-VEN ...

A LUXURY FLAT, A FOREIGN CAR, AND GET ANY WOMAN YOU WANT

WITH 30 BILLION. YOU COULD BUY...

POPS ...

I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT CAR ...

POPS ...

"LET'S GO" ...

ブロロロ...

OH ...

WHAT'S OUR DESTIN-ATION?

EH ..?

WHERE ARE WE GOING ...?

... ...

THAT'S RIGHT... HE AGREED TO THE 30 BILLION BET,

BUT ONLY ON GEN-ERAL TERMS.

WE HAVEN'T HASHED OUT THE DETAILS YET.

BY KONO... YOU MEAN YOUR HORSE-RACING OPP-ONENT, THE LEADER OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTY?

KONO ...?

WITH KONO ...

WE'RE GOING TO A MEET-ING.

...

...

BASICALLY, GOING OVER THE RULES, NEGOTIATING ...

THAT'S WHAT I'LL BE DOING TODAY...

FUFU ...

AM I ALSO GOING TO MEET KONO?

NN ?

ME TOO?

YOU CAN'T MEET HIM TODAY.

FOR THAT REA-SON,

HAH ...

HAH ...?

THIS TIME WON'T WORK...

THERE'S A MORE EFFECTIVE WAY TO HAVE YOU MEET KONO.

AS FOR YOU,

IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU TO WATCH.

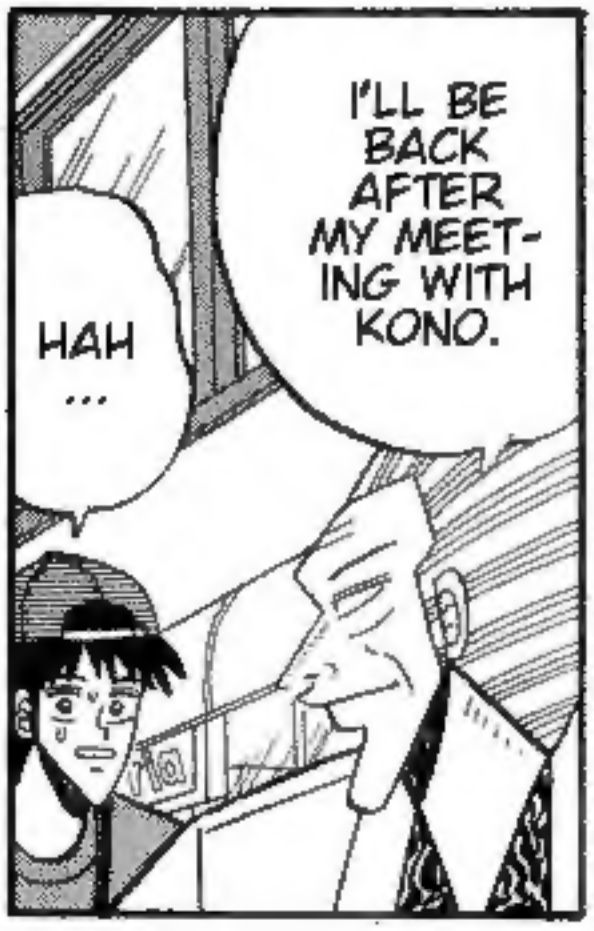
THAT'S WHAT WE'D NORM-ALLY DO...

YOU NEED TO STUDY UP...

BUT...

Lotteria ロッテリア

HMM ...
ABOUT HOW LONG ...?


HAH ...
I'LL BE BACK AFTER MY MEET-ING WITH KONO.

Lotteria
EH?
WAIT HERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE ...

AH ...
SEE YA ...

...
WELL I GUESS AROUND 4 OR 5 HOURS ...

WHAT ..?

Lotteria

IT'S BECAUSE I ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.

MY BAD.

I SEE ...

KU KU KU ...

IT'S JUST ... YOUR NAME....

UM... WELL ...

EH ...?

RYOUHEI KAWA-MATSU.

RYOU-HEI...

ALREADY KNOW EVERY-THING...? ABOUT ME?

YOU ...

WE CAN GO AHEAD AND DO OUR SELF-INTRO-DUCTIONS IF YOU WANT.

GINJI HIRAI ...

I'M HIRAI.

YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT.

FU FU FU ...

YOU LIVE NEAR MUSASHI KOGA-NEI.

21 YEARS OLD.

HIII ...

Y...
YES...

NICE
TO
MEET
YOU...

THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH
...!

TH
...

KU
KU
KU
...

GIN-SAN
...

SEE
YA
...

KU KU KU ...

WELL, I'M SURE YOU WOULDN'T GUESS...

...

HOW WILL HE BE USEFUL ...?

FU FU ...

I DON'T GET IT...

HM- PH ...

LOOK FORWARD TO IT ...

WELL ...

I'LL TELL YOU ON THE WAY BACK ...

FU FU ...

THE TRUTH IS, HE IS CONNECTED TO KONO ...

TO KONO ...?

HIRAI-SAMA IS HERE TO SEE YOU.

SEN-SEI ...

PLEASE ENTER

YES

LET THEM IN

PRES-IDENT

I'M HI-RAI

I'M PLEASED TO FINALLY MEET YOU

THEY'RE DROPPING ONE AFTER THE OTHER.

KONUMA, ITANO, SASAYAMA, AND OTHERS.

THE KINGS OF UNDERWORLD BROKERS.

I'VE HEARD THE RUMOURS ...

FU FU ...

KUKUKU ...

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO GEN-EROUS.

FAR FROM IT.

GINJI HIRAI ...

THE DEMON OF THE HEISEI ERA, THE LAST FIXER,

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT.

I'M STILL A NOVICE, BARELY REACHING YOUR FEET.

COMPARED TO THOSE ON YOUR LEVEL,

YES ...

SHOULD YOU LOSE, THEN THAT DAY ...

I WON-DER IF YOU HAVE THE 30 BILLION PRE-PARED ...

THE MON-EY ...

HI-RAI-SAN ...

FU FU ...

...

I'LL PAY IT.

OF COURSE ...

YES ...

I BELIEVE YOU.

FUFU ...

THEY SAY YOU ARE QUITE THE BIG SHOT.

THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT YOU LIKE YOU ARE SOME NOU-VEAU RICHE UPSTART.

IF YOU WOULD ...

...

WANT A DRINK?

THE ONLY TH-ING,

HI-RAI-SAN ...

I'M GOING TO USE ALL MY PERSONAL CONNECTIONS AT THE JSA.

I'M SORRY, BUT THIS TIME,

I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU.

IT'S A 30 BILLION YEN GAMBLE.

FUFU ...

...

WITH FULL FORCE ...!

BUT OH WELL ...

I'M NOT SURE WHERE THAT CONFIDENCE IS COMING FROM...

THAT'S JUST WHAT I WOULD HOPE ...!

...

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S SCHEDULED FOR MID-DECEMBER.

THE RACE WE'LL BET ON WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE JAPAN CUP AND THE ARIMA KINEN ...

LET'S TALK...

IN FIRST ...?

THE HORSE THAT COMES IN FIRST PLACE WILL DECIDE WHO WINS...

THAT IS ...

SO, AS FOR HOW WE WILL DETERMINE THE WINNER...

IF THE RACE INVOLVES 12 HORSES, EACH SIDE WILL PREPARE 6.

THAT'S THE KND OF RACE I WANT.

TH-ERE-FORE ...

THE TRUE POWER OF BOTH OUR SIDES WON'T BE TESTED.

IF WE CHOOSE ONLY ONE HORSE,

IT LEAVES TOO MUCH TO CHANCE.

YEAH ...

...

GH ...

IT'S SIM-PLE ...

THE HORSE THAT COMES IN FIRST WILL DECIDE WHICH OF US WINS ...

TH... THAT'S ...

GIN-SAN ... ...

EH ...?

I DON'T MIND.

GIN-SAN ...

WHAT IS IT ...? ...

A REQ-UEST ...?

I DO HAVE ONE REQUEST.

HOW-EVER ...

IN OTH-ER WOR-DS ...

EVEN IF THERE'S INTERFERENCE OR SOME-THING BLOCK-ING YOUR VIEW,

EH ...?

I'D LIKE YOU TO DECLARE THE WINNER AS SOON AS THE HORSE HAS PASSED THE GOAL.

SIM-PLY ...

FOR THE WINNING HORSE ...

KU KU KU ...

THOUGH, THEY ARE PROBABLY UNDER YOUR THUMB.

WHETHER THE RULING COMMITTEE DECIDES IF THERE WAS ANY INTER-FERENCE OR NOT...

NO MATTER WHAT ...

OR IF THE HORSE IS DEMOTED OR DIS-QUALIFIED.

DECLARE THEM THE WINNER.

THE HORSE THAT PASSES THE GOAL FIRST.

NO MATTER WHAT SORT OF CHEATING TAKES PLACE.

ANYWAY,

VERY WELL ...

LET'S DO HAVE THIS RACE ...!

LET US TEST THE LIMITS OF EACH OTHER'S POWER.

I WANT THE SAME THING ...

that night-

KU KU KU ...

...

agreeing to each other's conditions.

Hirai and Kono sign the paper-work

EVEN IF IT'S NOT SO GREAT, IT COULD ALWAYS PULL THROUGH AT THE END.

VICTORY IS POSSIBLE ...

IF YOU PICK ONLY ONE HORSE,

NN ...?

IS THIS REALLY OK ..? GIN-SAN...?

THE PEOPLE OVER THERE ARE SO SKILLED, THEY COULD PROBABLY KNOCK YOU DOWN FURTHER THAN 7TH PLACE...

FU FU ...

KONO OBVIOUSLY HAS THE ADVAN-TAGE.

EVERY-THING IS UNDER THE JSA'S CONTROL.

HE CAN HOG ALL THE STRONG HORSES FOR HIM-SELF.

THEN IT'S ALL-OUT WAR.

IF IT'S HALF OF ALL THE HORSES,

DOING THAT IS MY SPECIALITY.

FOR INST-ANCE,

PEOPLE WHO ARE CERTAIN OF THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE CAN EASILY BE TRIPPED UP.

BUT ...

EVEN IN THAT SITU-ATION, THAT GUY HAS A WEAK-NESS.

YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT ...

A PICTURE OF KONO'S FOURTH SON.

FOURTH SON ...?

IT'S SOMEONE HE DRIFTED AWAY FROM.

EH ...?

LOOK AT THIS ...

EH ...?

THAT BRAT WILL BE OUR PATH TO VICTORY.

IT'S OUR STRAT-EGY...

FU FU ...

HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM... LIKE THAT BOY...!

YOU'RE RIGHT ...

WHAT IS THIS ...?

WHAT THE HELL ...

AN ILLUSION IN BROAD DAY-LIGHT ...

WE'LL BLIND HIM UNTIL THE VERY END.

...GIN-SAN ...

銀と金◆第95話◆完

TRANSLATION: TEABUN
CLEANING/TYPESETTING: HAGENOBAKA